

Dear Chairman Powell and FCC Board:

Allowing consolidation of broadcast ownership is a dangerous rule that will serve to stifle freedom of expression, impede the activation of the emergency broadcast system, and prevent local communities from having a local voice.

Major media corporations already control too much of local markets. By allowing broadcasters to further their stranglehold on markets, free expression will only be harmed. Major broadcasters are simply concerned with profits. By removing the control of local markets, the voices of local citizens are also removed. It is vital to support the right to freedom of expression. By allowing national conglomerates to dictate what small markets experience across broadcast channels, the citizens of these communities will lose their voice.

It is also vital to local emergency services that a local person be present. The emergency broadcast system works best on a local scope. Major media corporations commonly control local broadcasts remotely. By furthering this trend, the ability of local police and fire officials to utilize the emergency broadcast system across television and radio channels will be further complicated. America has a necessity for homeland security. The fact that locally-owned media stations have personnel onsite, who can readily activate the emergency broadcast system, will help to keep our country a safer place. By further removing local media channels to remote stations, homeland security will be compromised. Consolidating broadcast ownership leads to more stations being remotely controlled and could lead to dangerous consequences.

Due to the current ownership rules, niche markets, such as the Latino broadcast channels, are in jeopardy of being controlled by single ownership. Without competition, these target audiences will be controlled by a single entity. All Latinos could easily be fed the same misinformation or certain news items could be ignored. Furthering broadcast ownership will allow the information that small audiences receive to be hijacked. This could be the most dangerous result of allowing the consolidation of broadcast ownership.

The FCC is supposed to protect the freedoms of Americans. Allowing consolidation of broadcast ownership will take these freedoms away from Americans. Please do not allow further consolidation of broadcast ownership.

Thank you,
William Hauser